

AGENDA ITEM III A 1

PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAM

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

POST-MASTERS CERTIFICATE IN DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grambling State University has offered M.Ed. and Ph.D. programs in developmental education. An outgrowth of the 1981 Consent Decree, these graduate programs prepare education professionals to serve the developmental/remedial education needs of academically unprepared, at-risk, and/or non-traditional students enrolled in learning support programs at post-secondary institutions. The University now proposes to offer a post-masters certificate program in Developmental Education which should attract education professionals seeking retraining and/or a “refresher” program in this highly needed area of training without going through the research requirement of a thesis/dissertation.

The staff notes that the University has requested simultaneous consideration of this agenda item as both a Letter of Intent and a full proposal. With regard to Letter of Intent issues, the staff agrees that the projected program is consistent with the University’s role/scope/mission, is not unnecessarily duplicated, is consistent with previous desegregation judgements, and is cost-effective since current coursework will be used to offer the certificate. The staff summary which follows focuses on program proposal particulars.

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Curriculum

The proposed curriculum totals 21 graduate credit hours, composed of 18 hours of required courses and 3 hours of elective courses. All of these courses are currently offered to support the M.Ed. And Ph.D. programs in developmental education. Required course are offered in an appropriate and timely rotation.

2. Students

The proposal projects the following enrollment and graduates:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Enrollment	20	25	30	40	50
Graduates	0	5	15	20	25

The University believes these figures to be reasonable, given current M.Ed. and Ph.D. enrollments—76 and 78, respectively--- and enrollment of 50 other non-degree students in developmental education last year.

3. Faculty

The University states that the current five, full-time, doctorally-prepared developmental education faculty should be able to absorb additional student numbers without any additional faculty lines. If the certificate program expands beyond projections some course sections may have to be offered more often.

4. Learning Resources

Grambling provided evidence of adequate library resources, facilities, and equipment to accommodate program/student needs.

5. Administration

Like the related M.Ed. and Ph.D. programs, the proposed certificate will be administered by the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education.

6. Costs

The University opines that costs are negligible, given that the program will utilize existing courses already offered to support the related M.Ed. and Ph.D. programs.

STAFF SUMMARY

The staff fully supports this proposal. To be sure that only students with adequate previous education are enrolled, possession of an M.Ed. or closely related master's degree should be a program admission requirement. Numbers of enrollees, graduates, and placement of these graduates should be monitored in the future to justify sustained need.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed Post-Masters Certificate in Developmental Education (CIP Code 13.9999) at Grambling State University, effective immediately.